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October 21, 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. O'CONNOR

I attach two copies of a paper prepared by Dr. Frederick Dunn of Princeton, which sets forth his preliminary suggestions as to the categories of file subjects which would have to be collected in order to assemble from the records of the Department of State those documents which accurately reflect the impact and personality of John Foster Dulles as Secretary of State.

Dr. Dunn feels, and is supported in this feeling by Dr. Noble of the Historical Division, that it would be physically impossible between now and January 1, 1957 to collect and duplicate every piece of paper in the Department of State bearing the Secretary's signature, no matter on what subject. He also feels that this approach is both undesirable and unnecessary, in view of the aim of the project, for the following reasons:

(1) Undesirable, since many papers would be missing which may not bear either the Secretary's signature or any direct reference to him, but which nonetheless are an integral part of some aspect of the Secretary's influence on the Department of State or the foreign relations of the United States.

(2) Unnecessary, since the Historical Division and other normal historical processes will eventually make available to researchers much of the general documentary history of the Department. The aim of the collection at Princeton should not be to duplicate the "Foreign Relations of the United States" volumes, but rather to collect those papers which directly reflect some aspect of the Secretary's life and career. Obviously, there will be some duplication; equally obviously, some papers may be of interest to a general student of American history which have little relevance to Secretary Dulles' career, and some papers may be relevant as to Secretary Dulles, but with little relevance to history as such.

Dr. Dunn

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Dr. Dunn hopes that the Secretary will look over this list, adding or deleting as he sees fit, but particularly indicating whether he feels this approach is valid and comprehensive, and where he feels emphasis should be placed.

Present plans call for Dr. Dunn to take over-all supervision of this project, but not himself to work actively in the Department's files. Two other persons would do this, one of whom would be of considerable professional competence in the broad historical sense and the other of whom would be essentially a archivist-technician. Two names have been suggested to date, both of whom are (or very shortly will be) available. One is Peter B. Curl in the first category and the second Mrs. Arlene Van B. Pratt in the second category. Both have worked previously in the Department's files. Their biographies are attached.

Curl has worked mostly with the Council on Foreign Relations. I shall attempt to get a reading on not only his professional competence but also his reliability and integrity from Mr. Allen Dulles and possibly one or two of the Secretary's other friends in the Council, and will cable this to you, possibly requesting authority to proceed with his employment for this purpose. You may also wish to ask Hamilton Fish Armstrong's opinion. He will be somewhere in Greece (presumably available through Cannon) until October 29, on which date he is presently scheduled to fly to Geneva.

In view of the attached information on Mrs. Pratt, I intend to disapprove her appointment to this position unless I hear differently from you.

If I get any further suggestions, I will forward them to you promptly. The project presently awaits the hiring of at least one of these people (or someone else) to move forward at full speed.

John W. Hanes, Jr.

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